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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SENATOR HANSEN CLARKE TO INTRODUCE BILL
TO BAN THE SALE OF VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES TO MINORS**
Detroit lawmaker joined by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, who called for
legislative action after child's death.

DETROIT- State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) announced today that he will introduce a bill to ban the sale or rental of video games rated AO for Adults Only or M for Mature to any person in Michigan less than 17 years of age. According to the Entertainment Software Rating Board, titles rated AO may include graphic depictions of sex and/or violence. Titles rated M may contain mature sexual themes, intense violence and/or strong language. Under this bill, any person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

Senator Clarke's legislation is a response to a request from Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy for the legislature to limit the sale and rental of violent video games. The drive-by shooting death of a child that allegedly involved a dispute over such a game brought recent attention to this issue in metro Detroit.

"I think people are generally unaware of the violence in the video games our children are playing. We must do everything we can to make sure games that glorify the killing of police officers, raping of women and carjacking do not get into the hands of our children," said Prosecutor Worthy.

Sen. Clarke believes that minors should not play games like "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" because such games may influence some youth to act violently. Several studies have documented the link between playing violent video games and committing violent crime.

"My bill will help protect our children from the harmful effects of violent video games. These games glamorize prostitution and murder by portraying them as fun and entertaining. These games are also dangerous to the public because they can influence some young people to copy the violence simulated in the game by killing innocent people in real life," Sen. Clarke explained. "I believe violent video games can have the effect of training game players to be killers. The military has used technology similar to these games to train soldiers to become sharpshooters and more effective killers," Sen. Clarke added.

Governor Jennifer Granholm, in her State of the State address earlier this month, urged the legislature to approve Sen. Hansen Clarke's video game legislation. The Governor's remarks drew a standing ovation from both Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

Sen. Clarke intends to introduce this bill tomorrow in the Michigan Senate.
